

## **RDT MEETING – MINUTES OF MEETING**

**February 14, 2013**

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### **ACTION ITEMS / FOLLOW-UPS**

No	Activity	Responsibility
1	Communication issues while EPA personnel are on flexiplace - States are still facing this issue, EPA staff is not responsive while working at flexiplace. EPA Management will re-emphasize this with EPA staff. States/Tribes will elevate the issue to upper management if required	All
2	EPA needs to improve its coordination on sampling and review of removal documents - SCAP report will be shared as a follow-up item	Charles /Ragan
3	5-year review schedule and list of removal actions needs to be shared with state	Charles
4	EPA will establish 60-day call to increase collaboration and coordination of all elements of SF Program and remedial/removal/site assessment will participate	Charles
5	In past, EPA did neither included state's comments in the final documents (ROD), nor provided feedback about exclusion of these comments including improvement in efficiency, i.e., minimizing many rounds of comments between states and EPA	Charles
6	Success stories – states will send success stories to Joy Campbell	States
7	EPA Website updates – if states find website information not up-to-date, then they will contact Tony Talton	Tony
8	Special Account – how much money is left/how much state needs to share/ Carlene will coordinate with Susan Jenkins and get back with States. Any other issue states need to contact Wren	Wren/ Carlene
9	States want to use "grants.gov" website to submit their requests/grants applications due to document size, EPA needs to follow-up and provide information to states/Tribes	Tony
10	EPA Web interface with state websites	Joy
11	States requested for a quarterly update of removal actions and newer OSCs needs to notify states before responding to any ER or removal actions – <a href="#">States need to send Sussan email list of who should get removal updates</a>	Susan/ <a href="#">States</a>
12	Training schedule – HRS/Site Assessment symposium brochures/ dates/ registration information etc.	Ben/ Brenda
13	New process for Governor's letter, EPA will contact each state	Ben/ Brenda
14	Feedback from states about RDT meeting	Amy
5	<a href="#">EPA will be setting up SharePoint sites, EPA will notify states when this is working and states will let EPA know if a SharePoint site is needed to share large files</a>	All

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### **NEXT MEETING**

- Next RDT meeting is scheduled to be held in Dallas, TX during last week of July or first week of August 2013

- Texas CEQ will take the lead (Buddy Henderson will be our point of contact)

## **Brief Summary of Major Discussions**

### **Introduction**

- Carl Edlund, SF Division Director, introduced himself and re-emphasized that State/Tribes are one of his top priorities and he would like to continue this. In addition, he mentioned various recent activities with Laguna Pueblo and Quapaw Tribes.
- Budget - It's tight, EPA is waiting for its final budget and will see what happens in next couple of months or so. EPA will have a clear idea April.
- Sustainability – Number of reforms are underway and region is heavily involved as R6 is the lead region for next two years. EPA is conducting sustainability reviews, efficient ways to do job, etc. There are 10 areas we are looking at priorities. By the end of April, we will be able to sort top 5 that we would like to move forward with to save cost. We will ask States/Tribes to provide input.
- EPA is changing to new email system and communications may be affected in next few weeks.
- CERCLIS will be transferred to SEMS, a new system to manage sites, and everything will be digitized.
- Carl will visit all states in near future (after April) including ITEC during next RTOC meeting.

### **Questions/Concerns from State**

1. Communication – When EPA staff is on flexiplace, states have issues with timely responses, emails, telephone calls, etc. It's a hit and miss.  
EPA has call forwarding feature, therefore, it should be invisible, ER personnel have Blackberries. So, if states can't get hold of RPMs or others, please call supervisor and elevate it. It's part of our day-to-day communication and we shall do our best to address this issue.
2. Coordination with Remedial - when EPA conducts sampling, there is a lack of coordination. EPA needs to let us know and we can send crew. In addition, states need a timely notification when documents are sent to states for review. It will help states to arrange for resources. States can't see anything in CERCLIS and states suggested to receive a quarterly printout of CERCLIS reports. EPA – SEMS will help with this issue once it's functional. EPA will provide read only access to states. SEMS will start in FY14 (October 2013). Also, during this time, EPA will share SCAP report with states including target dates.
3. States need heads-up - so that they can be prepared for 5-year reviews. EPA needs to inform states when sampling will occur. States will also need removal actions list and targets for removals.
4. EPA Discussion to Initiate 60-day call from last RDT – This was never happened  
Charles will start doing it. And will include all elements of Program; removal; remedial; and site assessment.
5. States asked EPA that what could they do to assist with SF Program - States need schedule for projects to assist EPA. If RODs review is taking longer than anticipated, then EPA should start communication with states. Also, if there is disagreement at management level, then start dialogue so it can be resolved. Texas reemphasized that it is a two-way street.
6. Documents Review Comments – RODs and other documents review comments were not included in the final package. ROD was changed after Exec. Directive from TX has signed it. Also, no feedback was provided to the state. And it's a concern. TCEQ suggested using share point.

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7. 5-year Review – State drafted document. Too many review rounds, which is exhausting and making editorial changes (regional/HQs). States want EPA to coordinate comments to minimize efforts from state standpoint.
8. Success Stories – States will send success stories to Joy Campbell. No format was decided for submission.
9. Web Site Errors – States/tribes asked EPA POC for Web site errors. EPA provided Tony Talton as Point of Contact. EPA told states that HQ is standardizing EPA websites nationwide; it may take six to nine months and it will synchronize with SEMS.
10. Projects Where EPA is Using Special Accounts – States asked EPA to provide: how much money is left under a special account; if special account funds are being spent because of cost share; adding clause in SSC that will help states plan its funds etc. Carlene will coordinate with Susan Jenkins and contact states to provide the requested information. Wren Stenger will be the POC for LTRA and other questions related to special account money.

## Remedial Programs

1. Tar Creek – Conceptual Idea - When waste is left in place, EPA/state work together ahead of time on draft deed notice, That way draft notice is ready for landowners signature, when cleanup is complete on the property. ICs have to be drafted for each state to comply with state ARARs.
2. Texas is doing eight sites and conducting survey to meet IG requirements.
3. Budget – Tight budget will impact sites, EPA is moving towards a reduction of 10-20%. We are still exploring and will conduct a state-to-state discussion. This is just heads-up and we keep you informed. However, you may not get major impacts; still it depends upon the budget.
4. EPA took 8% cut from last year and it could be 10-20% this year as mentioned earlier; however, we don't know how much it could be, it's a guess.
5. EPA provided SEMS update to states and tribes. PRIMAVERA, a project management software, is built in and will provide CPM schedule, etc.
6. If communication problems come up on the RPM level, states should work with Carlos and Cathy.

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## Revitalization

**Mary Kemp** – Brownfield Group is very busy. We are reviewing Region 9 cleanup grants. States did outreach and there is increase due to state outreach. Few other updates:

- National Brownfield Conference will be from May 15-16, 2013 in Atlanta, GA;
- There are 128 Programs – Sequestration will cut 10% Grants. EPA has given to States (\$45.9 million during last year);
- Pam provided further clarification that EPA don't have budget yet and we don't know it yet, she further added that Carl would visit Oklahoma in March and other states in late April or May.
- OK and AR were complimented in Governors/Mayors meeting. Little Rock and Oklahoma cities were mentioned. Thanks to states

**Carlene** – Carlene provided grants, cooperative agreement and budget cuts updates. She mentioned that EPA had some pipeline funds and its estimated amount is same as 2012. We have received 1/3 of 2012 budget amount and HQ is very conservative. Once we have our budget, we will talk to you individually and would let you know what we can do for you in pipeline resources. There will be some core funding, EPA is not eliminating it. Pam suggested states that ASTSWAMO needs to talk to HQs for core grant needs. Also, ECOS may be another forum to pursue this funding. EPA

suggested states to charge to site accounts, if traveling is related to a site. Also, states need to do split-funding on travel for this RDT meeting, if any site-specific issues are discussed which have special funds.

- EPA has two types of accounts: SF pipeline; and RA funds. Core programs - PA/SI, management assistance, RI/FS are covered under pipeline. RA funds covers remedial actions itself and long term RA.
- We always use special account funds first, if its applicable.
- With 5-year review, we use RA account and states can use 5-year review grants for review, Newspaper advertisement, Community interviews, and Public notification. Furthermore, 5-year review of community engagements need to be directed to 5-year/RA funds
- Our States are not identical and it will be state specific.
- EPA will amend grants to put [community involvement activities](#) it into 5-year review grant. Definitely, not in pipeline funds.
- TX is doing 5-year review out-of-state funds; we will see what we can do to help TX.

**Grants** – States asked if they could use website, “[Grants.epa.gov](#)” due to huge size of files to be submitted, it’s hard to use email.

- Kathy will look at it/Tony will follow-up.
- Joy will provide a list of upcoming meetings to states. Also, she will create a community involvement coordinators list. [States should send any questions/comments to Joy about EPA’s website.](#)

## Removal

**Ragan Broyles** - Discussed about removal budget/removal actions/ER/Oil/RMP/EPCRA/Homeland/regional planning in general and suggested them to call him, if they have any issues. Susan provided update on removal actions:

- Region 6 will conduct 17 ERs and 17 removal actions during FY 2013;
- In 2012, we have completed 28 ERs and 18 removal actions;
- Removal budget had 10% cut last year, however, we don’t have any budget yet and we are hoping that we may receive 6 to 8 million dollars this year compared to 9 to 10 million last year;
- Susan shared a list of on-going/completed removal actions;
- State requested for quarterly updates on removal actions;
- States relayed their concern about newer OSCs who were not notifying states. Susan promised to remind them.
- [EPA still deciding how to document state in-kind services for removals now that RACs are no longer used. It may be a while before this is resolved.](#)
- [States should call Susan if old polreps or other documents are not on the OSC webpage anymore.](#)
- [Enforcement for Libby sites, negotiations continue, more work may be performed this summer.](#)

Susan confirmed the POC for ER/Removal Actions for future communication

EPA - Susan  
AR - Tammie/Toni  
NM- Phyllis  
OK- Rita/Amy/Kelley

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TX- Bob/Monica  
LA- Karen/John  
ITEC- Jason

#### **Technical & Enforcement**

NPL – Brenda provided update on PA/SI training, which will be held on March 21, 2013 and HRS training will be held from April 30 through May 3, 2013. The information could be found on [trainer.org](http://trainer.org)

- From now on there will be two NPL publications; one in April and other will be in October, April/Oct months are a lot easier to get rule out. Wilcox Oil site will be listed in April 2013 and two sites – Delta Shipyard, McMillan Ring Free sites will be listed in October 2013
- In April 2014, three sites: El Dorado Chemical, TX; Colonial Creosote, LA; and SBA, LA and in October 2014, UPRR Kingfisher, OK will be listed
- A new Process for obtaining Governor's letter is underway and Brenda will follow-up with each state.

Adding VI to HRS – the rule was drafted and it's with OMB.

- once we have response back from OMB, it will be published and we have 60-day comment period
  - After that it will be published. We are hoping to have it released in 2013.
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**NOTE:** The meeting was concluded at 11:45 PM, however, remedial branch and states/tribes had another meeting to discuss few site-specific issues.